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Foreign Service Dispatches: Mozambique

1964-02-28

# Foreign service dispatches: Mozambique. LourencoMarques\_1964-02-28-43AF

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*Boston University*



INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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Action  
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Control: 20438  
Rec'd: February 28, 1964  
10:17 p.m.

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FROM: Lourenco Marques

ACTION: SecState 152

INFO: Lisbon 106

Luanda

Blantyre

Dar-es-Salaam

Lusaka

Pretoria

Salisbury

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>W. Johnson</i>	DATE <i>3-14-13</i>
BDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE _____	
AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____	
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>	
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DATE: February 28, 4 p.m.

Street cleaners Lourenco Marques staged 24-hour strike February 14 reportedly protesting Sunday work.

Now learn from reliable native source that many such workers "recruited" from countryside by one local administrator (administrador) who promised monthly wage 245 escudos (about \$8.58) plus additional 50 escudos (\$1.75) to be deposited each month their credit with local administrator. Strike resulted when some recruits found monthly deposit being deducted from 245 monthly wage, leaving them with net monthly wage 195 escudos. All cleaners struck, some in sympathy, and resumed work after city hall instructed Institute de Trabalho make investigation. Workers awaiting outcome.

Source states street cleaners are "recruited" from villages by local chiefs on instructions administrators. Workers sent Lourenco Marques work one year for city government and dare not protest because fear arrest, imprisonment. According source for railroad here (caminhos de ferro) still recruited at low pay for six month period with same fear protest. Source states all these workers completely intimidated. Comment: Foregoing reveals Portuguese here still practicing forced labor tactics despite public statements contrary. GP-4.

WRIGHT

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*Source: Mozambique 152*